



News Release

Lower Rio Grande Valley
National Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, Texas 78516
(956) 784-7500

Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) www.fws.gov/southwest/

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Contacts: Imer De La Garza, (956) 784-7561

Wildlife Refuge Seeks Public Input on Hunt Fee Changes

Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (refuge), is proposing a fee increase for our big game hunts for the 2016-2017 season. The public is being invited to provide information that should be considered in changes to the hunt fee schedule.

The purpose of this fee increase is to offer their quality hunt opportunities through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) on-line only public hunt draw system. TPWD is a provider of drawn public hunts through an online only drawing system that offers loyalty points, secondary draws, secure online ordering, multiple purchases, online payment and online order confirmation. Through this system TPWD brings manual paper processes online, including public hunt applications and public hunt permits. TPWD is focused on rapidly delivering effective solutions to reduce paperwork, increase efficiency, expand service availability, and enhance customer satisfaction.

All TPWD managed hunt areas and U.S. Forest Service lands in Texas are currently using this system with great success and by being part of this system LRGV NWR hunters can easily apply for many hunts throughout Texas. Hunters should be able to browse the drawn hunt catalog by refuge, hunt category, and location using interactive maps. This could eventually become a one-stop shop for Federal and State public hunting opportunities in the Texas.

Through this scoping process, the Refuge is seeking public input to facilitate identification of issues and concerns regarding fee changes to the hunting program at the refuge.

The public is encouraged to provide input by writing to: Imer De La Garza, Wildlife Biologist, imer_delagarza@fws.gov.

Comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm on **March 11th**.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.